• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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$4 Million Colorado River Bond Sale is Authorized

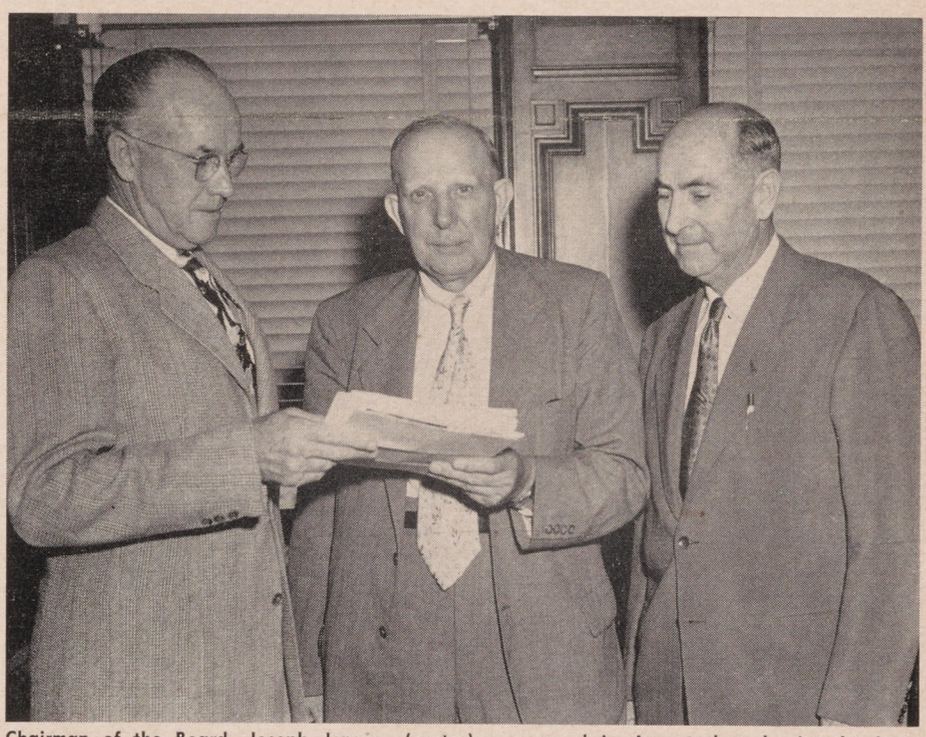
Sale of $4,000,000 in Colorado River aqueduct bonds to the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association and eleven associated banks and bond firms was authorized in July by the District's Board of Directors.

Proceeds of the bond sale are to be used, Board Chairman Joseph Jensen stated, to finance a part of a major aqueduct construction program now being carried forward to meet the increasing need for Colorado River water by the 47 cities in Southern California now in the District.

Director Herman Nelson, Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee, said that bids submitted by the Bank of America and associates offered the highest premium of any of the six bids that were received by the Water District Board. All of the bids specified an interest rate of 2-1/4 per cent per annum. A premium of $77,111 was offered in the Bank of America bid, while the other five bidders offered lesser amounts.

Importance of the $4,000,000 bond sale, Chairman Jensen stated, is indicated by the fact that all future population growth and business and industrial expansion in Southern California are dependent upon California's share of Colorado River water. Nearly $200,000,000 already have been invested by Southern California people, Chairman Jensen declared, to pay the cost of Metropolitan aqueduct installations.

Associated with the Bank of America in the $4,000,000 bond bid were American Trust Company; Chase National Bank; Blythe & Co., Inc.; First Boston Corporation; First National Bank of Portland, Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane; R. H. Moulton & Co.; National City Bank of New York; Northern Trust Company; Weeden and Company; and J. Barth and Company.



Chairman of the Board, Joseph Jensen, (center) announced in August that despite the large construction program now under way, the District has reduced its tax rate, effective for the year 1952-53. Above, Controller A. W. McKinlay (left) hands Chairman Jensen an analysis of tax figures, as General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer looks on.

Board of Directors Approve Two-Cent Cut In District's Tax Rate Effective 1952-53

Despite the fact that a large construction program must be carried forward to meet Southern California's increasing need for Colorado River water, the District, by order of its Board of Directors, has reduced its tax rate, effective for the year 1952-53.

Acting on the recommendation of Chairman Herman Nelson of its Finance Committee, and Controller A. W. McKinlay, the Board on August 19 voted to reduce the Water District's present rate of 30c per $100 of assessed valuation to 28c for 1952-53 — a drop of 2c. Since the Metropolitan Water District tax rate reached its highest level of 50c in 1945-46, successive reductions year after year have cut the rate down 22c, Controller McKinlay pointed out.

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen stated that the 2c tax reduction was ordered by the Board even though more money will be required this coming year to pay off outstanding Colorado River aqueduct bonds. He also drew attention to the fact that recent annexations to the Metropolitan Water District will require large investments in additional aqueduct distribution works. At

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District Tax Cut

(Continued from Page One)

present, he stated, a $52,000,000 aqueduct expansion program is under way.

Of the 28c tax rate, McKinlay stated, 21c will be used to meet interest and principal payments on outstanding Colorado River aqueduct bonds that were sold to finance the construction of the giant $200,000,000 water supply system from the Colorado River. The remaining 7c will be used to help pay operation and maintenance expenses and to meet outstanding obligations with the Federal Government. All charges on Colorado River aqueduct bonds are being paid by the water users in the Metropolitan Water District, McKinlay stated. He pointed out that no Federal subsidies of any kind are being received to help pay any part of the aqueduct water supply.

Cities and areas within the Metropolitan Water District are not required to meet assessments made against them from taxes but may pay these charges, if they choose, from water or other revenues, Chairman Jensen pointed out. He stated that Glendale, Pasadena, San Diego and Burbank next year will levy no taxes to meet their Metropolitan Water District obligations, but will pay all these charges from their water or other revenues. Other District cities that will pay part of their assessments from water revenues are Chula Vista and Compton, it was stated.

Factors which help to make possible the reduction of the Metropolitan Water District tax rate, Chairman Jensen pointed out, include increasing revenues from the sales of Colorado River water and an increase in the assessed valuation of property within the District.

The District covers an area of about 1,540 square miles and has a population of 4,000,000 persons.

DIRECTOR C. C. CRAVATH

Ten-Year Service Pin Goes to Director Cravath

Director C. C. Cravath, representing the Coastal Municipal Water District on the Board, received his 10-year service pin in August from Chairman Joseph Jensen.

Director Cravath is a member of the Legal and Claims Committee and the Water Problems and Public Relations Committee.

In presenting the pin to Director Cravath, Chairman Jensen paid tribute to his years of service in helping to formulate the policies of the District.

In addition to his duties as a member of the District's Board, Director Cravath is a Municipal Court Judge at Laguna Beach.

Board Awards Contract For New Tunnel Project

Acting on the recommendation of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, the District Board of Directors at its meeting on August 19 awarded to the Shea Company of Alhambra a contract for the building of a one and one-half mile tunnel that will carry water out of Lake Mathews and serve as a part of the new Orange County feeder. The Shea Company, with a bid of $1,598, 808, was the lowest of twelve bids received by the District.

The Lake Mathews tunnel project is a part of the District's $52,000,000 expansion program now being carried forward, Mr. Diemer stated.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed August 1952, covering District operations for July 1952.)

Colorado River — The water level in Lake Mead continued its rise, due to spring runoff, until July 16 reaching elevation 1201.1 feet and then dropped to 1199.88 feet on July 31. This is 31.71 feet above the level on July 31, 1951. Usable storage on July 31 was 23,946,-000 acre-feet, an increase of 263,000 for the month. The discharge at Hoover Dam averaged 21,300 cubic feet per second in July and totaled 1,312,000 acre-feet. At Lake Havasu the water level varied between elevation 450 feet on July 1 and 449.1 on July 31. Average discharge was 20,500 cfs.

Power and Pumping Systems — Pumping was continuous using one unit at Hayfield except for 3 power interruptions due to electrical storms, and the District, Parker and Edison Company power systems were in parallel throughout the month except for these three outages. Peak delivery to the Parker system was 10,000 kw and to the Southern California Edison Company 132,000 kw.

Distribution System — Natural Colorado River water was delivered to the San Diego aqueduct at an average rate of 6.8 cfs, and to the Eastern Municipal Water District at 3.4 cfs. Storage in Lake Mathews on July 31 was 90,302 acre-feet, and water level was at 1350.13 feet. An average release of 70 cfs was made at the Santa Ana River for the Orange County Water District. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 309 ppm to 124 ppm at an average rate of 227.7 cfs.

Construction — J. E. Haddock, Ltd. resumed work on the Ramona freeway crossing of the Garvey-Ascot pipe line, following the strike settlement, and completed laying the 1,300 of pipe at the month end. United Concrete Pipe Corporation and Ralph A. Bell resumed operations on the Santa Ana freeway crossing of the middle feeder and completed placing concrete encasement around the pipe.

Purchasing — During July there were issued 272 purchase orders and 3 purchase agreements in the approximate amount of $38,700. Carload forwardings consisted of 99 cars of chemicals to the softening plant.

Arizona in New Try For Fantastic Project

Two major developments in the Arizona-California controversy over Colorado River water have taken place since the adjournment of Congress in July.

On July 28, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman granted Arizona a right-of-way for the aqueduct unit of the Central Arizona Project which has been vigorously opposed by California because of its threat to the Colorado River supply of this state.

On August 13, Arizona requested permission of the U. S. Supreme Court to file a suit against California over the conflicting water claims of the two states.

Both Arizona moves brought immediate comment from California members of Congress and leading water authorities.

Chairman Joseph Jensen of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors said that Secretary Chapman's action in granting the Arizona Interstate Stream Commission a right-of-way over public lands was a "serious threat to the Colorado River water supply of 4,000,000 people living in the 47 cities and areas included in the District."

"Official reports of the Interior Department show unmistakably that the Arizona project could be operated only by taking Colorado River water for which our California cities hold Federal contracts. These reports also point out that there is a controversy between Arizona and California over water rights. It has been admitted by the Interior Department that, if California's contentions are correct, there will be no water for the Arizona project.

"But Secretary Chapman makes no reference to such important legal points. Instead, he openly encourages Arizona to go ahead with its plans," Mr. Jensen stated.

James H. Howard, General Counsel of the District, pointed out that California has been making every effort over a five-year period to get Congressional authorization for Supreme Court adjudication.

"It has been held in an earlier case," Howard said, "that the United States is a necessary party to such a suit. Our Congressmen and Senators introduced bills to meet this requirement but Arizona stubbornly opposed a Supreme Court settlement and we were blocked.

"We hope that Arizona is acting in good faith now."

Approximately one million persons attending the Los Angeles Country Fair at Pomona in September are expected to get a firsthand knowledge of how Colorado River water serves Southern California by viewing the huge photo mural now being installed at one end of the Argicultural building. Sigfried Knop (top) hand colors Parker dam photo while John Cornish places test color strip along aqueduct route.

Central Basin Municipal Water District Election Set By Supervisors for December 2

The first step in the organization of the proposed Central Basin Municipal Water District was taken late in July when petitions bearing the necessary signatures and requesting an election for the formation of the district were filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

Following the certification of the petitions to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors by the County Clerk the supervisors set December 2 as the election date for the formation of the new district. The district will then be eligible to annex to the MWD.

Formation of the Central Basin District has been spurred by increased water shortages in that area. Spokesmen for the large industrial and home area state that this territory faces a serious and increasing water deficiency.

The Central Basin Water Association, which is spearheading the annexation move, points out that approximately 900,000 southeast Los Angeles County residents face water rationing unless an additional supply is obtained.

The Association reports that according to a recent survey made by the State Board of Water Resources, the underground water supply in the area is being overdrawn more than 70,000 acre feet a year. The association leaders emphasize that Colorado River water distributed by the MWD is the only supplemental source available.

The Central Basin area comprises the Los Angeles County coastal plain southeast of Los Angeles city, not including Long Beach and Compton, which are already members of the District, and the Dominguez area which has separate annexation proceedings under way.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Even though the temperature registered 110 degrees in July when the above picture was taken, Gene camp children find plenty to smile about as they cool off in the camp swimming pool. Left to right are Steven King, Tony Irwin, Donald Graham, Glenda Bouse, Lucille Lewis, Ginny Sue Irwin and Judy King.

Congratulations to Homer R. Campbell who completes 15 years service with the District this month. Homer joined the District August 26, 1937 and was stationed at Iron Mountain until 1947 when he transferred to Gene Village where he is Station Electrician.

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Ed Russell, Senior Electrical Engineer, is serving fresh peaches, stewed peaches, pickled peaches and peach pie at his home these days. He reports he picked 44 lugs of mighty fine Albertas recently from his orchard located near Yucaipa.

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Late scholastic note — Dorena Yaklowich, daughter of James Yaklowich, Maintenance Mechanic at Gene, and Jim Chapman, son of James Chapman, Maintenance Mechanic, will be juniors this year at the Parker High school. Dorena is spending the summer learning the intricacies of square dancing while Jim is building himself a hot rod.

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Anita Trudeau, Senior Bookkeeper, and her sister Margie, Payroll Clerk, are at this writing deep in the wilds of northern Michigan on their vacation.

Calvin M. Twiggs, Engineering Aide, and his family, and Walt Murphy, Station Electrician, and his family spent their vacations in Anaheim while Dan Gabele, System Operator, and Mrs. Gabele visited the Big Sur area and Carmel-by-the-Sea on their vacation.

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Orpha Bartz, Supervising Secretary, is recuperating at home following an illness. Her associates in the office recently presented her with a beautiful housecoat and slippers.

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The District's most successful annual picnic was held July 20 in San Dimas Park. More than 100 employees attended and enjoyed the games and the pot luck dinner that followed. A vote of thanks goes to the folks at the Softening Plant who planned the affair and also to the Softening plant boys who got up at seven o'clock on Sunday morning to make sure enough tables were reserved.

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Roy Price, Chef at Gene, practically wore out his boat transporting it from one fishing spot to another in Colorado in search of trout. He finally wound up his vacation with a total of seven fish.

Al Geisler, System Operator at Gene, and Mrs. Geisler are the happy grandparents of a new grandson born Steven Raymond Geisler, July 1. Steven's parents are Roy and Lola Geisler of Van Nuys.

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Maynard Anderson, Engineer, reports via post card, "We are camped on the banks of the Wawona River in Yosemite — seeing the sights, swimming and loafing."

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James Parks, Maintenance Mechanic, and Chester Westbrook, Patrolman, have been on the ailing list but expect to be back on their jobs soon.

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Unconfirmed reports indicate that the snow is melting fast on the South side of the houses at Gene.

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John Anderson, Engineer, is a man with a problem. He was all set to go on his vacation when his six-year-old son came down with the mumps. John's hoping Junior recovers in time for him to still catch a few fish.

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Bob Thompson, Junior Engineer, is the happy owner of a new home in Downey. Bob served with the U. S. Marine Corps in Korea. He joined the District in February of this year.

DOROTHY GODDARD

Dorothy Goddard, Secretary, received her 20-year service pin in July. She was first employed by the District during the Colorado River Bond Campaign in 1931. She was in government service for 11 months in 1941 but returned to the District in June 1942.